

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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DEPARTMENT PASS AID

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TAGS: EDCU, SF

SUBJECT: TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA

REF: STATE 004484 AND 023264

1. RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH NAMIBIANS HERE AS WELL AS WITH OFFICE OF UN COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA HAVE PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMAL SOUNDING ABOUT THEIR VIEWS ON DEVELOPMENT TRAINING FOR SOUTHERN AFRICANS, INCLUDING SENSITIVE ISSUE OF WHETHER SUCH TRAINING MIGHT BE PROVIDED INSIDE NAMIBIA. NOT ALL SUGGESTIONS BROUGHT FORTH ARE OF EQUAL MERIT BUT ARE BEING REPORTED HERE FOR CONSIDERATION AS REFLECTING VIEWS OF AT LEAST SOME OF THOSE MOST DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH NAMIBIAN TRAINING.

2. ONE IDEA PUT FORTH WAS POSSIBILITY OF OFFERING THROUGH THIS PROGRAM ASSISTANCE TO YOUNG NAMIBIANS INSIDE NAMIBIA TO COMPLETE THEIR SECONDARY EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT IN NUMBER OF CASES YOUNG NAMIBIANS HAVE

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BEEN DISMISSED FROM SCHOOLS INSIDE TERRITORY FOR REAL OR ALLEGED

ILLEGAL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. OTHERS MAY LIVE IN RELATIVELY REMOTE AREAS WITHOUT SECONDARY EDUCATION FACILITIES OR WHERE SUCH FACILITIES ARE DEFICIENT IN CERTAIN BASIC SUBJECTS. FUNDING TO PROVIDE DESERVING STUDENTS OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE THEIR EDUCATION TO A SECONDARY SCHOOL STANDARD WOULD ENABLE MANY OF THESE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BENEFIT MORE READILY FROM OTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT MAY BE OFFERED AT LATER DATE, ESPECIALLY OUTSIDE NAMIBIA. IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT SUCH A PROGRAM MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO WORK OUT: CORRESPONDENCE STUDENTS WOULD NEED TO BE PROPERLY SELECTED AND MOTIVATED AND OFFERED SOME IN-COUNTRY SUPERVISION AND GUIDANCE. THIS MIGHT BE DONE BY ARRANGING WITH NAMIBIAN CHURCH GROUPS OR OTHER RESPONSIBLE LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS SYMPATHETIC TO BLACK ASPIRATIONS TO PERFORM THESE TASKS. BY MAKING CORRESPONDENCE PROGRAM OPEN TO EXTENT POSSIBLE TO THOSE WHOSE EDUCATION HAS BEEN INTERRUPTED SOLELY FOR POLITICAL REASONS BUT AT SAME TIME MAKING IT BROAD ENOUGH TO INCLUDE THOSE DISADVANTAGED FOR GEOGRAPHIC, FINANCIAL, OR OTHER NON-POLITICAL REASONS, WE WOULD EXPECT PROGRAM TO BE ACCEPTABLE IN EYES OF NAMIBIAN NATIONALISTS WHILE YET AVOIDING APPEARANCE OF BEING SO POLITICAL AS TO INVITE SUPPRESSION BY SOUTHWEST AFRICAN AUTHORITIES.

3. FOR NAMIBIANS OUTSIDE NAMIBIA THERE REMAINS NEED FOR REMEDIAL TRAINING, ESPECIALLY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE, TO BRING THEM UP TO LEVEL OF QUALIFICATION SUFFICIENT TO ENTER SUCH PROGRAMS AS THAT AT NKUMBI COLLEGE IN ZAMBIA. SOME SUCH TRAINING IS ALREADY BEING DONE AT SWAPO FARM SCHOOL NEAR KAOMA, ZAMBIA, AND A FEW NAMIBIANS ARE ENROLLED IN SPECIAL EFL CLASSES AT LUSAKA'S EVELYN HONE COLLEGE. MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE, HOWEVER, AND ANY PROGRAM FOR TRAINING NAMIBIANS OUTSIDE NAMIBIA WILL NEED TO TAKE THIS NEED FOR REMEDIAL AND/OR LANGUAGE TRAINING INTO ACCOUNT.

4. MIGHT ALSO BE NOTED THAT UN COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN THAT MOST OF THOSE AVAILABLE FOR TRAINING ARE GIRLS. THIS PRESUMABLY REFLECTS TENDENCY FOR MALES OF MILITARY AGE EXITING NAMIBIA TO BE DRAFTED BY SWAPO INTO ITS ARMED FORCES. GIVEN CURRENT SITUATION ALONG ANGOLAN-NAMIBIAN BORDER, WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THIS TREND TO DIVERT MALES INTO MILITARY RATHER THAN VOCATIONAL/PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE. IN DRAWING UP TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR NAMIBIANS DEPARTMENT AND AID MAY WISH TO KEEP THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POTENTIAL DISPARITY IN SEX RATIO OF NAMIBIAN STUDENTS IN MIND.

5. LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF UN COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA HAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT ANY TRAINING PROGRAM FOR NAMIBIANS WITHIN AFRICA THUH INVOLVES PLACEMENT OF THESE STUDENTS IN WEST AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES INCLUDE FUNDING PROVISION FOR STUDENTS TO RETURN TO ZAMBIA DURING MAJOR SCHOOL VACATIONS. HIS ARGUMENT FOR THIS IS THAT LONG UNBROKEN STAYS IN WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES OFTEN LEAD

YOUNG NAMIBIANS TO LOSE TOUCH WITH THEIR ROOTS OR EVEN TO REMAIN IN WEST AFRICA AFTER TRAINING. BY BRINGING THEM BACK EACH YEAR TO, SAY, THE SWAPO FARM IN ZAMBIA WHERE THEY CAN BE PUT TO WORK TEACHING OR WORKING IN FIELDS, THESE STUDENTS MAY BE MORE INCLINED RETURN AFTER TRAINING TO CONTRIBUTE TO DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR OWN PEOPLE. (WE ARE UNABLE TO EVALUATE VALIDITY OF THIS CONCERN BUT ASSUME THAT ON BASIS OUR OWN EXPERIENCE WITH AFRICAN UNDERGRADUATES IN U.S. THERE IS PROBABLY SOME TRUTH TO IT.)

6. STATE/AID MAY ALSO WISH CONSIDER HOW PROPOSED TRAINING PROGRAM FOR NAMIBIANS MIGHT FRUITFULLY COOPERATE WITH NEW INSTITUTE FOR NAMIBIA HERE IN LUSAKA. WE COULD OFFER SEVERAL SCHOLARSHIPS EACH YEAR FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT OF NAMIBIANS TO SERVE AS TEACHERS OR RESEARCH FELLOWS AT INSTITUTE. NEW INSTITUTION ONCE IT IS A GOING CONCERN MIGHT ALSO PROVIDE CONVENIENT AND, FOR NAMIBIAN NATIONALISTS, POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE MECHANISM THROUGH WHICH SELECTION OF PARTICIPANT TRAINEES MIGHT BE EFFECTED. SHOULD BE NOTED THAT UN COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA MCBRIDE AND INSTITUTE FOR NAMIBIA HEAD GEINGOB HAVE SOUGHT TO AVOID OVER-IDENTIFICATION OF INSTITUTE WITH ANY ONE NAMIBIAN NATIONALIST MOVEMENT, I.E., SWAPO, AND HAVE TAKEN CARE INCLUDE SOME NON-SWAPO NAMIBIANS AMONG FACULTY NOW BEING RECRUITED.

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